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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 30 October 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the Tehran Declaration, adopted at the Regional Conference on Afghanistan, which was held at Tehran on 29 and 30 October 1996.

It would be highly appreciated if this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Majid TAKHT-RAVANCHI
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Tehran Declaration, adopted at the Regional Conference on Afghanistan, held at Tehran on 29 and 30 October 1996

Following the escalation of internal hostilities in Afghanistan, and on the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a Regional Conference on Afghanistan was held at Tehran on 29 and 30 October 1996. The Foreign Ministers, Ministers and Special Envoys of India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Turkey, the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan, as well as the Special Representatives of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union, participated in the Conference.

In two days of meetings, the participants carried out extensive consultations on the various aspects of the situation in Afghanistan, particularly in the light of recent developments.

The Conference expressed concern at the escalation of armed hostilities in Afghanistan, which had resulted in immense human losses and irreparable damage to the country in the economic, social and cultural spheres, and endangered regional peace, stability and security.

The Conference deplored recent flagrant violations of human rights in Afghanistan, particularly the rights of women, and called for an immediate end to such practices in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Conference underlined the imperative of respect for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and emphasized the necessity of cessation of foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

The Conference reiterated the urgency of cessation of violence and armed hostilities, and called upon conflicting Afghan parties to refrain from resorting to force and to settle their differences by peaceful means through inter-Afghan negotiations for a durable political solution and the establishment of a broad-based government. In that context, the Conference endorsed the recent relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, especially Security Council resolution 1076 (1996).

The Conference underlined its support for the commendable efforts of the United Nations and its Special Mission to Afghanistan, and those of other international organizations, in particular the Organization of the Islamic Conference, for the restoration of peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan. The participants declared their readiness to contribute effectively to these efforts aimed at arresting the internal conflict and commencing inter-Afghan dialogue for national reconciliation and the establishment of a broad-based government.

The Conference supported the decision of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene an international conference of States with interest and influence in Afghanistan aimed at a concerted and joint search for a political settlement in Afghanistan.

The Conference called upon all States and international organizations to extend all possible humanitarian assistance to the civilian population of Afghanistan and Afghan refugees.

The Conference decided to take appropriate follow-up measures at the regional level within the framework of the United Nations, with a view to actively pursuing ways and means of bringing about cessation of internal hostilities and facilitating the ongoing peacemaking efforts, in contact and collaboration with various Afghan groups, pertinent international organizations and States with interest and influence.

The Conference expressed its readiness to hold another meeting to review the latest developments in Afghanistan, assess the progress made in the implementation of this Declaration and consider ways and means of implementing, on the regional level, the decisions of the international conference to be held under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The Conference participants expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for convening the Regional Conference on Afghanistan and for the excellent arrangements.